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[CLICK HERE FOR CEO's REPORT DATED MARCH 31, 2009](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR CEO's REPORT DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 2009](#)



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

March 31, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

INTERIM RESPONSE TO MOTION TO SUPPORT IN CONCEPT ASSEMBLY BILL 12, CALIFORNIA FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

On March 17, 2009, your Board approved a motion directing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to support Assembly Bill (AB) 12 in concept, and report back in 30 days with an analysis of the bill and its impact to Los Angeles County. This is to provide your Board with an interim report on this issue.

AB 12 (Beall), as introduced on December 1, 2008, was a five-page bill citing legislative intent to implement the State option to use Federal Title IV-E funds to extend foster care to youth up to 21 years of age as provided under H.R. 6893, the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. On March 23, 2009, AB 12 was extensively amended to enact program and policy changes needed to provide foster care services to individuals between 18 and 21 years of age. The bill, which now exceeds 100 pages, proposes to revise dependency and delinquency court supervision procedures, case management services, placement guidelines, and licensing standards to address the specific needs of young adults in foster care which differ from those of young children under court supervision. AB 12 would also establish provisions for: 1) supervised independent living services; 2) transitional housing; 3) education and vocational activities; 4) CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, and SSI eligibility; 5) payments for foster care and to children of foster youth; and 6) adoption assistance.

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Each Supervisor
March 31, 2009
Page 2

As amended, AB 12 does not allow the County to receive Federal funds for extended foster care services outside of the Title IV-E waiver capped allocation, which would result in significant increased costs to the County. The Department of Children and Family Services is working with County Counsel on an amendment to allow the County to claim these new costs on an open-ended matching basis rather than being subject to the waiver capped allocation. The amendment will be submitted to the County Welfare Directors Association, which is coordinating with county child welfare services departments on amendments to the bill.

The recent amendments to AB 12 will affect the departments of Children and Family Services, Public Social Services, Probation, and County Counsel and these departments are analyzing the bill for programmatic and fiscal impact. This office will provide your Board with an analysis and County impact of AB 12 no later than April 30, 2009.

WTF:GK
MAL:MR:VE:sb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Department of Children and Family Services
 Department of Public Social Services
 Probation Department



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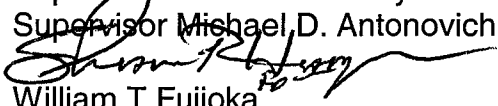
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
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Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

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Fifth District

September 18, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

STATUS REPORT ON BOARD MOTION TO SUPPORT IN CONCEPT AB 12, CALIFORNIA FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

This is to provide your Board with a second report on AB 12 (Bass and Beall) which would enact the State option to use Federal Title IV-E funds to extend Foster Care and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (Kin-GAP) to eligible youth up to 21 years of age as provided under H.R. 6893, the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

On March 17, 2009, your Board approved a motion instructing the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to support AB 12 in concept and report back in 30 days with an analysis of the bill and its impact to the County. On March 31, 2009, this office provided your Board with an interim report on AB 12 pending a comprehensive review and analysis of extensive amendments to the bill by DCFS, Probation, and County Counsel. This report includes a status of the bill and its potential impact to the County.

AB 12 would allow access to Federal funding to expand Foster Care and Kin-GAP services to youth up to 21 years of age. The State and the County would be required to provide matching funds for the expanded services. However, enactment of AB 12 faces significant hurdles due to costs associated with the bill and the State's ongoing fiscal crisis. According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee's analysis of AB 12, the expansion of foster care services would result in increased State General Fund costs ranging from \$30 million to

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Each Supervisor
September 18, 2009
Page 2

\$40 million in FY 2010-11 and up to \$100 million in FY 2013-14. The committee analysis also estimated that the Kin-GAP expansion would result in \$83 million increased State General Funds costs.

Due to these projected State costs, in May 2009, the Assembly Speaker's Office decided to hold AB 12 on the Assembly Appropriations suspense file, and to take no action on the bill this year. At that time, Speaker Karen Bass indicated that AB 12 would remain a priority and stated her intent to take up the bill again in early 2010.

On July 28, 2009, the Governor signed the FY 2009-10 Revised State Budget Act to resolve an estimated \$24 billion deficit, which combined with the \$36 billion in solutions enacted in February, has resulted in over \$60 billion in budget solutions this year. When the Governor signed the revised budget, he vetoed \$80 million in statewide funding for Child Welfare Administration, including \$19 million for the Title IV-E Capped Allocation Waiver. This has further precluded the Legislature from considering any expansion of Foster Care and Kin-GAP services this year.

According to the DCFS, most youth exiting the child welfare system are ill-equipped educationally, vocationally, or emotionally to move into adulthood. AB 12 would provide services and support to help non-minor dependents successfully make this transition; however, as currently amended AB 12 would result in higher Foster Care and Kin-GAP caseloads and increased net County cost.

This office will continue to work with the Sacramento advocates, DCFS, County Counsel and other affected County departments to develop amendments to AB 12 that will increase County flexibility to administer these programs and to maximize available funding consistent with existing Board policy to seek authority to implement provisions of H.R. 6893 outside of Title IV-E Capped Allocation Waiver, to support proposals that maximize Federal revenue, simplify foster care, and streamline Dependency Court procedures.

We will continue to monitor and advocate for passage of AB 12 and will keep your Board apprised of the status of this measure via Sacramento Updates.

We will continue to keep you informed.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:sb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services